



PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release: Women's giving circle broadens impact

What do you give a woman who has everything or wants for nothing? Impact Porter County, a women's giving circle associated with the Porter County Community Foundation, offers a gift suggestion that will make an impact. A contribution to the Women's Fund of Porter County in the name of one's favorite female is a gift that gives two ways and supports women helping women.

Impact Porter County raises money and awareness for women's causes in throughout Porter County. "The result has been phenomenal," said Impact membership chair Stephanie Gerdes. "Women have joined together to show that collectively we can make a difference in the lives of other women." Each year there is an annual goal of raising \$100,000; half is given away as a high-impact grant to advance women and half is endowed in the Women's Fund at the Foundation.

"We want to empower women from all walks of life to have a voice and reach new levels," Gerdes said. Not only are we improving the lives of women and their families through our grants, but making a difference in the lives of our members. "

To expand its impact and mentor the next generation of women philanthropists, Impact Porter County has broadened its membership opportunities to include a junior membership. "This is a wonderful opportunity for women to join our giving circle and afford to introduce their daughters, granddaughters, sisters, nieces or young friends to philanthropy and the means by which women can help women," said Gerdes.

While all levels of donations are welcome, a contribution of \$1,000 or more each year to the Women's Fund makes a woman eligible to be an Impact Porter County member. The membership entitles members to an equal vote in deciding which organization is awarded the annual grant, offers an open invitation to have an active role on an Impact committee and provides a unique way to be involved in the community.

Junior Impact Memberships are open to young women, ages 16 to 25 years, with a \$500 donation to the Women's Fund and a sponsorship endorsement of an Impact member. In return, Junior Members of Impact Porter County will have the same voice and vote in choosing the next grant recipient.

"We are excited to reach out and invite young ladies to join us," said Gerdes. "I think that a gift membership to Impact is a great statement and an amazing way to demonstrate the value of charitable giving."

To learn more about Impact Porter County or to make a contribution to the Women's Fund, contact the Porter County Community Foundation at 219-465-0294 or visit online at www.portercountyfoundation.org.